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and other international agencies;  
German publishers, producers and

development organizations, both gov-  
ernmental and nongovernmental.

## World Gets Rights To German Spymaster's Memoirs

World Publishing Company has acquired world rights, including all book and serial rights and excluding only German-language rights, to the memoirs of General Reinhard Gehlen, German chief of Wehrmacht intelligence on the Eastern Front during World War II and then head of the clandestine Buro Gehlen which operated in West Germany, secretly financed by the Central Intelligence Agency from the war's end until 1956 (*PIF* Currents, September 20). World plans publication in May of 1972. From 1956 until his retirement in May, 1968, General Gehlen was chief of the official West German intelligence service, the Bundesnachrichtendienst. He was one of the most influential, feared, brilliant, mysterious and successful figures in the history of espionage.

The publication of General Gehlen's memoirs will release a vast amount of information previously unavailable about World War II and the cold war period that followed it. The publishers believe, on the basis of their current knowledge of the manuscript's contents, that the whole historiography of World War II will have to be substantially revised after its publication. Gehlen's revelation that Reichsleiter Martin Bormann was a Soviet spy during World War II, a disclosure which has aroused intense interest in the world press, is only an example of the extraordinary nature of the material the book will offer.

World's purchase of the rights to General Gehlen's memoirs culminates several years of interest and pursuit by James O. Wade, editor-in-chief of the adult department of World Publishing and formerly senior editor of the Macmillan Company, where he commissioned a still unpublished biography of the general. Last month, Mr. Wade learned that previous arrangements for publication of the memoirs, understood to have been final, had been cancelled. Mr. Wade immediately reported this news to Peter V. Ritner, vice-president and director of World's general publishing division. Mr. Ritner, publisher of "Inside the Third Reich" (*Macmillan*) by Gehlen's wartime colleague, Albert Speer, went to Germany to look into the situation personally. He spent a day in Mainz in the company of George Bailey—an old friend, ABC correspondent and former American intelligence officer—reviewing parts of the manuscript and assuring himself that it was both authentic and sensational.

From Volker Hansen, head of Hase und Kohler Verlag, the German pub-

lisher acting as general agent for the property, Mr. Ritner obtained a two-week option. Approaches were made to other publishers and media, with the result that by September 7, an offer well in excess of \$400,000 had been made to the German publisher.

In West Germany, Conrad Ahlers, a government spokesman in Bonn, told newsmen that any disclosure of confidential information in the memoirs would violate West German law. As a result, a great deal of material falling into this category has had to be deleted from the Hase und Kohler Verlag text and from all other forms of publication in the German language, including serialization in the newspaper *Die Welt*, which, having paid a record equivalent of \$250,000 for serialization rights, published the first installment of the memoirs on September 10.

West German law cannot, however, control what is published in other languages outside of the country. General Gehlen has consequently insisted on many additions to the English-language version over what can be published in Germany and has further insisted, as a point of his contract with World, that all translations into other languages be made from the full and definitive text that will comprise World's English-language version.

While General Gehlen's knowledge and authority may go unquestioned, recent articles that picked up the Bormann story have suggested that he may have mixed motives in releasing his book for publication, even though they have failed to suggest any substantial motive that might distort his telling of the myriad facts uniquely at his disposal. It has been known for some time, for example, that Gehlen's organization operated illegally in West Germany after the war, with secret financing from the American Government through the CIA, and it has been surmised that Washington kept the arrangement secret out of embarrassment over the need to employ the 4000 men with whom Gehlen staffed his *Buro*, most of whom were former Nazis who worked under the SS or Gestapo, but who were nonetheless the only men qualified to conduct espionage and security operations in this area of the cold war. Hitherto, the matter has been taken lightly by the press, possibly because sufficient evidence was publicly unavailable. General Gehlen's memoirs now provide that evidence.

The book also shows how the American government knew the Bay of Pigs

invasion would fail; how Gehlen, a close personal friend of General Moshe Dayan, helped build the Israeli intelligence organization Sherout Yediot (SHAI); how the CIA was restrained from interfering with the anti-Communist coup in Indonesia that ended in the slaughter of 600,000 Indonesian "Communists"; why former West German intelligence chief Otto John may have "defected" to the East; how Bonn had five days advance warning of Israel's "surprise" attack on the Arabs in the Six Day War of June, 1967, three weeks advance notice of the building of the Berlin Wall, and six weeks advance notice of the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia.

The German publisher, Volker Hansen, is the son of a World War II officer who was a close associate of Gehlen's in the Wehrmacht. (Gehlen's uncle ran a publishing house in Germany before the war, and Gehlen's father ran its Breslau branch). Gehlen and Hansen's father were both in communication with Canaris, Stauffenberg and the other officers who were planning to assassinate Hitler, and Gehlen warned Stauffenberg that the plot would fail. (What really happened during the plot of July 20 is also covered in the memoirs.)

After the war, Hansen's father spent 11 years in a Russian prison camp. When he returned to Germany he picked up the threads of his life, and one of the old friends he looked up was Gehlen. Hansen senior and Hansen junior spent years convincing Gehlen to write the story of his career.

General Gehlen has also expressed his intention to make himself available for promotional appearances and interviews in the United States upon the book's publication. World plans publication in May of 1972.

## ABA Starts New Book & Author Series

The American Booksellers Association, in cooperation with *Book World* and the National Book Committee, will inaugurate the 35th season of book-and-author luncheons in New York City on October 4 at 12:30 P.M. in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Speakers for the first program will be John Kenneth Galbraith ("Economics, Peace and Laughter"), Melina Mercouri ("I Was Born Greek") and Don Oberdorfer ("Tet").

Belle Rosenbaum, associate editor of *Book World*, has arranged the program. Once again, Maurice Dolbier, book review editor of the *Providence Journal*, will be master of ceremonies.

Dates of the remaining luncheons in the 1971-72 book-and-author series are November 1, January 17, February 14 and March 20.